

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 141713Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MADRID 3816

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJ: MINISTER OF PRESIDENCY'S PUBLIC VIEWS ON POLITICAL REFORM

1. ALFONSO OSORIO, MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY, IN A DINNER SPEECH
13 MAY AT THE 9TH INT'L BANKERS' CONVENTION, SET FORTH HIS VIEWS ON
THE PATH SPAIN WAS FOLLOWING: "FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF
SPAIN WE ARE GOING TO SEE IF WE ARE CAPABLE OF ACTING AS ANY CIVIL-
IZED COUNTRY WOULD ACT."

OSORIO SAID THAT SPAIN AS A MATURE COUNTRY "HAD THE RIGHT TO
STRUCTURE ITS DEMOCRACY WITHOUT HAVING TO COPY FOREIGN MODELS" AND
THAT WHAT WAS DESIRED IN SPAIN WAS "A SYSTEM WHICH PERMITS A GREAT
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SOCIAL PACT AMONG THE DISTINCT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

FORCES" OF SPANISH LIFE. TO DO THIS IT WAS NECESSARY TO "NOT DESTROY ANY OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE STATE" BUT TO "READAPT THE INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE POLITICAL EDIFICE" TO MAKE IT "MORE ADEQUATE" FOR THE PRESENT. THE IDEA WAS TO "UNITE THE FIRM EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY WITH DEMOCRACY WHILE FLEEING FROM A PURE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM" WHICH IN THE PAST HAS NOT PRODUCED PRECISELY HAPPY RESULTS FOR SPAIN.

3. OSORIO SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT RUPTURE, WITHOUT A CONSTITUENT GOVT AND WITHOUT A REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD. THE PROCESS WOULD CONTINUE AS IT WAS PRESENTLY PROCEEDING, VIA A PERFECTING OF PRESENT INSTITUTIONS, VIA THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESENT CORTES AND VIA A SUBMISSION OF ALL REFORMS TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE IN A REFERENDUM.

4. OSORIO SAID THAT AGAINST THE OPPOSITION OF BOTH THE "IMMOBILISTS" AND OF THOSE WHO DESIRED RUPTURE, THE GOVT HAD THE SUPPORT OF "THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION WHICH DESIRES DEMOCRACY BUT ALSO DESIRES PEACE AND PROGRESS." STABLER

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